

leaf clusters, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Scuba Diver Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

I think we have a lot to learn from Americans like Cole Hogan. His dedication and patriotism are unwavering and a standard we all should strive to emulate. Cole Hogan will be missed, as will so many others. These lives will not be forgotten. We must honor them by living on as they lived. The lives stolen by terrorists so easily could've been our own. We owe it to the fallen to press on and take hold of all that our forefathers fought for and dreamed we would live to enjoy. As a nation, Americans have always shown strength through adversity.

I commend Major Hogan for his service and I thank his family for raising a man whose heart was to give his all for his country. His presence will be missed and his legacy will not be forgotten.

**SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN'S
PARTICIPATION IN THE U.N.**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the horrific events of September 11 underscore the renewed importance for democracies of the world to stand together in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations serves as a vital forum in the effort to eradicate terrorism once and for all. Unfortunately, one of the most vibrant democracies in the world that is willing and economically capable of aiding with the efforts against terrorism has consistently been denied re-admission to the U.N. Taiwan is a democracy with a strong economy, commitment to human rights and support for fundamental freedoms. Its GNP and population are larger than three-quarters of the existing member countries of the U.N. On behalf of its 23 million people, Taiwan should be allowed membership in the United Nations.

Both Houses of the U.S. Congress, with broad bipartisan support, have repeatedly endorsed Taiwan's desire for participation in the United Nations and in other international organizations including the World Health Organization, the Asian Development Bank, admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Group and the World Trade Organization. The Taiwan Policy Review of 1994 mandated overwhelmingly by Congress expressed strong support for a more active policy in support of Taiwan's participation in international organizations. On May 24, 2000, the House passed H.R. 444 advocating Taiwan's full membership into the WTO.

Taiwan has built one of the most consistently solid economies in the world and its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in Asia. It ranks as the seventh largest trading partner to the United States. Using its economic success, Taiwan has served as a model for other nations by assisting developing economies and by contributing to international organizations.

Having elected Chen Shui-bian—the first member of the opposition to assume the Pres-

idency last year, Taiwan boasts a strong, participatory, multi-party democracy holding free elections at all levels. President Chen has been a champion of civil liberties, the rule of law and human rights. He has committed Taiwan to upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, and the Declaration and Action Program of the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights. Taiwan has made major strides in upholding and maintaining human rights.

Examples of East and West Germany admitted to the UN in 1973 and later unified and North and South Korea admitted in 1991 show that Taiwan could be given membership to the U.N. without prejudice to the final resolution of the differences between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

Taiwan's 23 million citizens deserve meaningful participation in the United Nations and the benefits that would accrue to world peace and stability if Taiwan were formally brought into the community of nations.

**DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2002**

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, my vote in favor of the Labor-HHS Education Appropriations bill was not recorded. I am here to make sure that I am on record as officially supporting this bipartisan bill. Chairman REGULA and Ranking Member OBEY crafted a fine bill, proven by the fact that 85 percent of this Chamber supported it. I congratulate the chairman and ranking member in their efforts and want to let them know that I too am supportive of their efforts.

**KAZAKHSTAN AND THE KYRGYZ
REPUBLIC**

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, in the rugged region of Central Asia, two nations have been dealing with proposed changes to current religion laws. In both Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic, new religion laws have emerged partially in response to real concerns about terrorism and state security. After the events of September 11, our whole country has a very clear understanding of the threat terrorists pose. Still, our commitment to democracy and religious freedom stands firm.

Consequently, I want to highlight and praise both countries for seeking assistance from the OSCE Advisory Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief. The choice to seek assistance and working to ensure the new legislation is in line with protecting human rights is a mark of wise governance. Even more, I want to encourage these governments to continue their close cooperation with this body of experts, and to continue to strive to uphold OSCE commitments and international norms for religious freedom.

In Kazakhstan, there has been great discussion over a proposed amendment to its 1992 law "On Freedom of Religion and Religious Associations." The Kazakh Government has been responsive to critiques of the law and removed it from consideration during this past summer. Furthermore, it has listened to the comments made by the OSCE Advisory Panel and modified some of the more troubling sections of the proposed law. However, concerns still exist in the area of registering Islamic religious groups by the Kazakhstan Moslem Spiritual Administration. It seems likely that with the various Islamic religious groups that are at odds over purely theological issues, registration could be denied for merely being out of favor with the Spiritual Administration. This is problematic; religious organizations should not be denied registration solely on the basis of their religious beliefs. Before the proposed law is reintroduced, I hope Kazakhstan will address these issues, so as to ensure its compliance with all OSCE commitments.

The Kyrgyz Republic is currently considering a proposed law entitled "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations," which would replace the 1991 Law on Freedom of Religion and Religious Organizations. In the Kyrgyzstan's short history of independence, it has consistently joined international human rights covenants. As one of the 55 participating States in the OSCE, the Kyrgyz Republic agreed to abide by the Helsinki Final Act and all subsequent agreements, in which clear language concerning religious freedom exists. This new legislation, made long before the events of September 11, was in response to real fears about terrorism. With religion often being used as a guise to legitimize criminal activities, I recognize the genuine concerns of Kyrgyz authorities about religious organizations existing in their country. However, while the United States has new understanding of the threat of terrorists, I want to encourage the Kyrgyz Republic from overreacting and unnecessarily limiting religious freedom.

While the current law on religion is generally in line with its OSCE commitments, it is my concern that if the new law is enacted, Kyrgyzstan will no longer be in compliance with its international obligations. This is especially true concerning the provisions addressing registration of religious groups. In its current form, the draft law's use of registration requirements appears complex, confusing and convoluted. The two step process of registering religious groups appears to be more an exercise for government involvement rather than a well outlined procedure for recognizing religious communities. The vague requirement of "record-keeping" registration is especially problematic, as it could serve as a major obstacle for successful registration that the government can utilize to block an application. Clear and transparent guidelines would be a superior way to prevent arbitrary tampering by